

THE CLARION.

By E. Barksdale, J. L. Power, Harris Barksdale.

Official Journal of the State of Mississippi.

WEDNESDAY, - - - APRIL 2, 1879

Hinds County Democratic-Conservative Executive Committee.

W. T. Ratliff, Chairman.

1st SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT.—W. L. Nugent, D. M. Potter, Jackson, Jacob Hewes and M. C. Johnson, Clinton.

2nd DISTRICT.—Clem Davis, Bolton; E. Matthews, Edwards; A. H. Bradley, Brownsville.

3rd DISTRICT.—T. Hart and J. B. Ross, Utica; J. L. McGhee, Edwards.

4TH DISTRICT.—Jno. W. Peyton, R. Charlton and N. B. Smith, Raymond.

5TH DISTRICT.—E. W. Funchess, Byram, and J. V. Enoches, Terry.

COUNTY AT LARGE.—W. T. Ratliff.

UNDER the Health law which Congress contented itself with passing at the late session, the Board of Health is required to report a plan of quarantine both maritime and inland at the next regular session beginning in December. But inasmuch as the next epidemic season will be over before that time, the action of our lawmakers is like locking the stable door after the horse had been stolen.

WHAT the country needs and expects of Congress is a law regulating and controlling the entry of ships into the ports of the United States from ports where the yellow fever prevails and which are liable to have the disease, or its germs, on board. And also co-operative with State and municipal authorities in preventing the spread of the disease after its introduction into the States, without superseding their authority over the subject.

THE Utica country through the Hinds County Gazette, asks the nomination of George W. Mims, Esq., one of the solid staunch, true, capable and faithful men of the county—for the Legislature. Here is one name at least, upon which East and Central Hinds can strike hands with Southwest Hinds. Let the ticket be so composed as that every geographical division of the county will feel that it has a special interest in the nominations, and let it be made up of a few capable and popular men whose very names will inspire confidence and excite enthusiasm. These are the elements which presage victory.

The State Medical Association.

This Association meets at Aberdeen to-day. It is a practical, as well as a learned body of men, who are meeting for deliberation the first time since the terrible combat with the awful scourge of the past summer and fall. In that desperate encounter many of the bravest and best succumbed. The seats of Hughes, of Cage, of Hall, of Whitehead and others will be vacant. They fell at the post of duty, their faces to heaven, their feet to the foe. There will be other members present who passed through the ordeal, took the consequences and were mercifully spared. All honor to these heroes of humanity—these leaders of a forlorn hope! Their names may be forgotten in the whirl of events, but their deeds are as imperishable as the fame of the heroes who guarded at the pass of Thermopylae.

No doubt the questions appertaining to the disease will be fully considered—its origin, the best mode of preventing its introduction and spread, and its treatment. We will look for a ringing resolution appealing to Congress to pass at the present session a national quarantine of a stringent and effective character. An appeal from a representative body of the very people who suffered most, cannot be without avail. The bill which was passed amounts to but little. It has chilled the people with disappointment. They asked for bread and were given a stone.

No Yellow Fever in New Orleans.

We are permitted to publish the following letters just received relating to the rumors that yellow fever had appeared recently in New Orleans. The writers of the letters are among its most reliable and respectable citizens:

"New Orleans, March 24, 1879.

Judge P. B. Bailey:

DEAR SIR:

As to the question of yellow fever, we are satisfied there is no reliable foundation for such a statement. The probable cause of the rumor is the arrival about the 15th inst. of a vessel at Quarantine Station from Rio Janeiro with fever on board. She has been thoroughly fumigated and is still at Quarantine Station. As to any cases in our city we are authorized to state by two of our most respectable physicians, that it is positively not so. (Dr. Holt and Holliday.) The former has this morning on the strength of a rumor reported to him a day or two since by our Mr. Cring, been to the board of health and carefully examined the records since the first day of January last and not a single case of yellow fever has been reported in fact, but a few deaths comparatively from any kind of fever.

Truly yours,

CRAIG & HOWARD.

OFFICE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF LOUISIANA, NEW ORLEANS, March 24, 1879.

Wirt Johnson, M. D., Secretary State Board of Health.

DEAR SIR.—Your letter is received, and in reply, beg leave to state that there has not been a case of yellow fever this year in this city, within the knowledge of this board.

Very respectfully,

B. F. TAYLOR, M. D., Sec'y.

Madison County.

The Executive Committee of the Democratic Conservative party of Madison county (T. T. Singleton Esq., chairman), have recommended to the Democracy of Madison county that they assemble in their respective Supervisor Districts on the 5th day of July 1879, to select delegates to attend a county Convention, in Canton, July 7th 1879, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various offices to be filled at the November election.

The Chairman of the Committee was authorized to appoint delegates to represent Madison county, in the District Convention of the 9th Judicial District which meets to nominate a candidate for District Attorney for said District whenever the same shall be held.

THE QUARANTINE QUESTION.

The Unfortunate Defeat of the Senate Bill by the House.

The Impending Danger—Congress and Its Duty.

In this State there is but one feeling in regard to the action of the late Congress at the last session upon the Quarantine and Health question, and that is of intense disappointment. In another column we have published the bill which was passed. It was all that was done after immense preparation and loud promise beforehand. The product of the mountain-labor was an insignificant measure. The people in the exposed region had reason to expect better things. They understood that the adoption of a thoroughly matured and effective method of quarantine for warding off the yellow fever, was to be the specialty of the session; that this essential measure was to be accomplished, no matter what else was neglected.

On the first day of the session, resolutions were passed appointing committees to take the subject in charge, and large appropriations were voted for prosecuting a rigid and exhaustive investigation into the origin, causes and mode of preventing the disease which had spread death and despair over several of the States, and had cast a gloom throughout the entire country. The ablest medical experts and scientists in the country were summoned to the assistance of the committees. Jointly they visited the communities where the pestilence had raged. They prosecuted their inquiries among the doctors, local authorities and people, and were gladdened with the prospect of the beneficent work that was to be done.

THE SENATE BILL.

After nearly three months of weary watching and waiting by the public, the Senate committee (Mr. Harris, of Tennessee, Chairman) reported a bill, which after a short and earnest discussion, was passed without serious opposition. It received the support of every Southern Senator, and most of the Northern Senators, all taking part in its consideration, and perfecting it by amendments. It was passed on the 25th of February, and was not reported by the House committee until the 1st of March, when there were not three working days of the session left, and in the hurry-burly and confusion and clash of contending factions on the eve of adjournment. Instead of reporting the bill which had passed the Senate by the concurrence of all the Senators from the States most interested, the House Committee endangered the whole plan of salvation from the threatened pestilence by offering a substitute upon which a long and profitless discussion ensued; and the amount of it was the defeat of both plans, and the production of the abortion published in another column, and known as the "McGowan bill," whatever that is.

The Senate bill abolished the office of Supervising Surgeon General of the Marine Hospital, and established a Board of Health, to consist of seven members, who shall have authority to have the whole subject of contagious and infectious diseases under their charge, and to adopt rules and regulations for the enforcement of the act to prevent their introduction and spread. The bill was charged with the duty of obtaining information of the sanitary condition of foreign ports and places from which such diseases might be imported into the United States; and required consular officers abroad to make weekly reports of the sanitary condition of the ports and places at which they are stationed. It required the Director-General to obtain weekly reports from the health authorities of the several States.

—to the end that due diligence might be observed, and that no information would be lacking for whatever prompt and efficient action an emergency might require. It required rigid surveillance over vessels engaged in transportation between foreign ports and the United States, and imposed severe penalties for the violation of the regulations adopted by the Board to prevent the introduction of disease. Vessels sailing from Havana for the United States were bound under heavy penalties to obtain from a medical officer to be appointed to keep watch, a certificate that the cargo and passengers were free from infectious disease. In the event the health officers at any port appointed by local authority should refuse to adopt and observe the rules and regulations prescribed by the Board of Health for the inspection and disinfection of vessels, it was made the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a Health officer to perform the duties in accordance with said regulations. In case of necessity the Director-General was required to select suitable localities for establishing stations on the rivers and railroads, for quarantining and disinfecting passengers and goods. Provision was made for the appointment of a Commission to visit the port of Havana and investigate the nature and history of yellow fever and the condition of its origin and spread at that place, and the President was required to invite the co-operation of the Spanish government in the examinations and experiments of the Commission in furtherance

of international commerce and the sanitary interests of mankind.

STATE RIGHTS GUARDED.

To guard against infringing upon the rights of the States and local authorities in the event the pestilence should pass the outer line of fortifications established by the bill beyond their jurisdiction, and to secure the co-operation of both Federal and State authorities for carrying out the objects of the bill—the following clause was inserted:

SECTION 8. That it shall be the duty of the Director-General of Health and of the Board of Health, so far as they lawfully may, in the execution of their powers conferred upon them by law, to cooperate and cooperate with similar local officers, boards, and authorities acting under laws of the States, in sanitary measures, to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases from foreign countries into the United States, and from one State into any other State, by means of commercial intercourse, or upon and along the lines of interstate trade and travel; and to that end it shall be lawful for said Board of Health and Director-General of Health to confer upon any such local officer or board within or near the locality where his or its authority is exercised, power also to enforce the provisions of this act, and any rules and regulations made in pursuance thereof.

This clause was a full recognition of the rights and powers of State, municipal and local authorities, but to make assurance doubly sure, and leave no cause for cavil, the following amendment was moved by Senator Harris who reported the bill, and it was adopted without dissent:

"Provided, That nothing shall be so construed as to supersede any sanitary or quarantine law of any State."

As explained by the able and practical Senator from Tennessee to whom the people of the South especially, owe a debt of gratitude, "the bill so far from wiping out a single quarantine regulation adopted by any State, was not intended to interfere with any law or quarantine adopted by any State, or any of the machinery of the State looking in that direction." The Senate bill was intended to protect the outposts; and to aid the State authorities in guarding the inner circle, and doing the work for them if they failed to do it for themselves; and it left the latter to adopt any additional regulation within the limits of their jurisdiction. Common sense dictated that at the stage of the session in which this measure was sent to the lower branch of Congress, it ought to have been taken up, and passed without a moment's hesitation. The failure to do so necessarily jeopardized the whole scheme of protection from the most terrible enemy that could ravage the land. It was slaughtered in the House of its friends upon a shallow and insufficient pretext, that they wanted a measure which would not interfere with the State, county and municipal regulations. In this respect the prerogatives of the State and local authorities were as well guarded as in the substitute by which they killed the whole scheme.

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THE State Executive Committee have intimated through THE CLARION that they will take no part in the coming campaign, for the reason that the fall elections will be "purely local." We would ask the honorable gentlemen who compose that committee, if the election of a United States Senator, is "purely local?" The election this fall may be a purely local matter, but should the State Executive Committee refuse to take an active part and a semi-disbandment of the party follow, the disastrous consequences will be as broad as the land, and the effect will be severely felt in the next national election.—Oxford Falcon.

THE CLARION never said, or thought of "intimating" what is here ascribed to it. Several contemporaries (notably the Copiah and the Holly Springs Reporter) were discussing pro and con, the propriety of nominating county officers. THE CLARION said: "Here in Hinds, is the determination to stand solid (for nominations throughout) and put the whole ticket through"—but added: "No doubt the State Executive Committee will decide that it is wisest to leave to the county authorities the settlement of the question, (viz: making nominations for county officers) for themselves, on the ground that the people of a county are better qualified to control their own affairs than outside parties." Meaning for example, that the State Committee could not properly dictate to Copiah county that she should not nominate her county officers; nor to Marshall that she should. The local organizations will no doubt be supported by the State Committee with all the influence it can wield in whatever plan of action they may determine upon, whether in nominating officers by primary election or convention; or making no nominations at all; or nominating in part only.

So far as candidates for the Legislature are concerned, we have heard no doubt expressed that they should be nominated and elected. The State Committee has never thought of abdicating its functions, nor remaining sullen in its tent. We do not think we misstate the spirit of its members in saying that they are alive to the importance of the canvass; that they will be seen and heard and felt in the heat of the contest, and that their resolve is to hold Mississippi fast-anchored, with firm grip, and solid to the principles and measures of the Democratic Conservative party.

SENATOR HARRIS has reported from the committee charged with the yellow fever legislation, a bill appropriating \$200,000 for the construction of a steel ship, fitted with refrigerating machinery, in accordance with the plans submitted by Prof. John Gangee, which ship is to be used at New Orleans and other Southern ports for the purpose of disinfecting ships by means of artificial freezing. Experts all agree that cold destroys the germs of terrible disease, which it is now feared will again afflict the South during the coming season. It is believed that artificial cold can be so rapidly produced that a 3,000 ton ship may be thoroughly disinfected within six hours. The Senators and Representatives most deeply interested in the yellow fever matter have agreed, it is understood, to the measure.

THE REPORTED CONCESSION.

The report from Washington that the Joint Committee of the Democratic members of Congress, have recommended to the party to back down from its original position on the election laws so as to allow the continuance of Supervisors to be appointed by Federal authority, is received with favor from no quarter. The Democratic people are denouncing it as a surrender of the principle that the States have exclusive control of the elections, and the Republican organs are jeering them for exhibiting political cowardice and a want of confidence in the correctness of their own position. Let our leaders who are clothed with a great responsibility at this crisis remember, that a political party which hesitates is lost.

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We have no comments to offer open on the House substitute. The objection to the Senate bill seemed to be that it was twofold instead of twofold. The House Committee insisted that it should be twofold. The Senate bill created a Board of Health and Director-General of Health. The House substitute created a Board of Health with authority to select a President of the Board from their own members. The duties of the two Boards were practically the same as to the prevention of the introduction of the disease, but it did not authorize the Board of Health to establish quarantine stations on rivers and lines of interstate travel until informed by the Executive of any State in which infectious disease might exist, and was likely to spread, that the local authorities were unable to control it—the effect of which would be to impair the efficiency of the system and procrastinate action when delay would be fatal. In this particular the Senate bill was far preferable. Hon. Mr. Young of the Memphis, Tennessee, District, who as the organ of the Committee reported the substitute, saw the folly of the proceeding, and when too late, attempted to repair the mischief his committee had wrought. The squabble over the question, produced division when there should have been hearty co-operation. Its enemies took advantage of the blunder, and both bills were defeated. The result was the production at the last moment of the insufficient and impotent measure which is printed elsewhere.

WHAT THE PEOPLE ASK.

Whatever else is done, or left undone, at the present session, it is our duty to demand that the people of this section demand of their representatives the adoption of a thorough quarantine system. The summer heat is now almost upon them. The epidemic season is approaching. For the want of timely action, at least one vessel has put in below New Orleans with cargo and passengers thoroughly infected with the death-bearing disease. How often it is to be repeated before action is taken is not within the sweep of mortal ken. Meantime there is a nervous apprehension among the people who have tasted so bitterly of past sorrows. All are looking anxiously to the still worse which may yet come to pass. The whole matter, and the great responsibility, rest with Congress.

SOME fine original poetry on our first page.

C. G. LEE, Esq., is again fairly mounted on the tripod of the Magnolia Herald. We wish him success.

REFERRING to the suggestion that it would be well for the Democrats and Conservatives in counties most exposed to an epidemic in the summer, to complete their organization and get their candidates early in the field—the Corinth Record says: "We think, under the circumstances, that the Democratic executive committee of the county should do what it intends to do as early as possible."

And in reference to the same suggestion, the Pascagoula Democratic-Star says:

We are decidedly of that opinion, and think it advisable for all the county committees to begin to organize for active service by the executive committees calling meetings and determining how candidates shall be placed in the field.

And the Tallahatchie Sentinel endorses the suggestion, says:

The CLARION very wisely suggests that every county in the State have their conventions early, and put their candidates in the field before the yellow fever season opens. It may be early, and all will have to desert our homes again this summer, and if such should be the case, the result of our neglect to act in time, would be a state of excitement which would doubtless terminate disastrously to the party.

The whole country is shocked at the assassination of Hon. J. M. Elliott, Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, by Thos. Buford for rendering an adverse opinion in a case Buford brought before the court. Buford's weapon was a double-barrelled gun, and he shot his victim through the breast. When arrested he confessed that the other barrel was "loaded for Judge Pryor."

The assassin is a brother of General Abraham Buford, of Woodford county, Ky. The invasion of the very sanctuary of justice by the assassin is a crime so revolting and so horrible that the mind shudders at its very contemplation.

We learn by an extra from the Kemper Herald that a negro preacher named Maddox, met his death at Wahalak in that county, under the following justifiable circumstances: In the absence of Mr. Hampton, a citizen of Wahalak, Maddox went to the house and made improper advances to Mrs. H. He was repulsed twice, and on repeating his visit and confessing to her base designs, the brave lady opened fire upon him with a pistol, which she had on her person. He fled; was captured and shot by the outraged citizens.

Lady Journalist.

There several accomplished ladies in journalism in New York City. Miss Hall, daughter of Oxford Hall, writes the Art Notes of the World and Miss Jones, daughter of George Jones, of the New York Times, make the literary selections for the Sunday edition of that paper. Miss Dana, also of the Sun, frequently does newspaper work, and has been a successful magazine writer.—New Orleans Times.

The above are noteworthy items; but these ladies are by no means the pioneers of their sex in journalism. One of the most brilliant, and withal successful, journalists that Mississippi has ever boasted, was a lady.

A Philanthropist and Statesman.

It is now an almost absolute certainty that Dr. Luke P. Blackburn, who was nominated for Governor of Kentucky, on his yellow fever record. He is an able physician and large-hearted philanthropist; and his views in regard to the prevention and spread of the disease, prove him to be a statesman without. The consequence is, that a whirlwind of popular enthusiasm has been aroused in his favor, and it will bear him triumphantly over all opposition into the Executive office of the State.

THE SUPREME COURT OF MINNESOTA has decided that a life insurance company is bound to pay policies on lives of suicides, unless the self-destruction was done with criminal intent to defraud. There have been numerous decisions on this question, but the best authorities and precedents support the Minnesota Court. Suicide is supposed to be a disease, either mental or physical, or both, and as such its commission ought not to vitiate a policy honestly obtained.

HON. C. E. HOOKER, who was a member of the Special Quarantine Committee, has written a letter to Mr. Wright, of the Vicksburg Herald, explaining why the bill which passed the Senate without division, was lost in the House. As our readers are anxious to have all the light which can be shed upon a subject of transcendent public concern, we have reproduced it in another column.

HON. THOMAS SPIGHT, who has represented Tippah county for the last six years with ability and fidelity, covering an eventful period in the history of our State government, has declined a call to be a candidate for State Senator or to run for any other office at present. Fortunate will be the county or the district, if the people are lucky enough to select a man who will serve them as efficiently.

MR. E. D. ELLIOT has withdrawn from the Crystal Springs Meeting to engage in other business, leaving that able journal in the hands of Dr. Hunter exclusively. The readers of the paper did not need to be assured that he "would keep the Monitor up to the high standard of excellence it has acquired both in a mechanical and literary point of view."

THE division of offices under the new Democratic regime at Washington took place by the party in the Senate caucus. The West got no office, the East none, and the South all the rest.—N. Y. Tribune.

Therefore in the language of the soreheads, the South ought to separate instantaneously from the Northern Democracy who are "claiming everything."

COL. THOMAS W. HARRIS, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic-Conservative party in Marshall county, called a meeting of the Committee on next Monday the 6th. We hope that steps will be taken for the reorganization of the party preparatory to the fall elections.

If after surrendering the principle, and conceding the power of federal authority to appoint Supervisors of elections in order to conciliate the President, he should, nevertheless, refuse to approve their action, would not our political leaders feel that they had surrendered without sufficient cause?

THE STRUGGLE COMMENCED.

At last accounts parties in Congress had grappled upon the riders to the Army Appropriation bill forbidding the use of troops at the polls, as follows:

That Section 2,002 of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows: "No military or naval officer, or other person engaged in the civil, military or naval service of the United States shall order, bring, keep or have under his authority or control any troops or armed men at a place where any general or special election is held in any State, unless it be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States."

And that Section 5,328 of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows: "Every officer of the army or navy, or other person in the civil, military or naval service of the United States who orders, brings, keeps or has under his authority or control any troops or armed men at any place where a general or special election is held in any State, unless such force be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, and shall suffer imprisonment at hard labor not less than three months nor more than five years."

The fight had commenced in earnest. Several able speeches had been made on the Democratic side; notably by Messrs. Carlisle of Kentucky (who is leading the debate), Stephens of Georgia, and McMahon of Ohio. Mr. Garfield had spoken on the Republican side. The signs indicated a long opinion.

Or the thirty-four committees of the Senate twenty-four have chairman from the South; so that, whether the South is to have "legislation" in the Senate is conferred upon the representatives of one-third of the people, including the negro population.—N. Y. Tribune (Rep.).

Again:

In distributing the Chairmanships of the 29 regular Senate committees, the Caucus Committee gives 20 to the South, and 9 to the North. So far as the Senate is concerned, therefore, the South will, in the words of Mr. Blackburn, "control the shaping of the legislation of the land."—N. Y. Times (Rep.).

The soreheads and independents who are insisting that the Southern Democrats are mere appendages of the Northern Democrats for the convenience of the latter, will please make a note of these interesting items.

DURING the reconstruction satumalia, the Republican Congress having exclusive control over the District of Columbia, established negro suffrage therein. It boomed for a short time—but for a short time only. The same party, after trying the experiment, abolished it, saying that it would not work; and there was nobody in the District to protest against its abolition but the colored man himself. Suppose a Democratic Congress had done the same thing, what howl would have gone forth from thousands of puritanic throats?

THE Sacramento Record, a Republican organ, says:

"There can be no question that the United States have behaved with discreditable exhibition towards Gen Grant."

This is said in view of all the rewards that have been heaped upon him. It means that he must be elected President for a third term in violation of all precedents, or that a pension must be voted him for life.

THE Northern fanatics need not shake at the South, the gory locks of Porter, the stage actor who was foully murdered in Marshall, Texas by one Currie. The said Currie did not belong to the South. He was an Ohio man who served the full term of the war in the Union army, and was since under Custer in the Indian war. So says the Cincinnati Star.

Porter was the third man he had murdered.

THE two Southern members of the Greenback delegation in the House are the strongest opponents in that little party of the repeal of the election law.—N. Y. Tribune.

Make a note of this. If these Greenback Representatives from the South are in favor of the infamous laws enacted by the Republican party for controlling elections in the South in what respect are they better than avowed Radicals?

IN the Senate at the last session of the 45th Congress, 13 Democrats voted for the River and Harbor bill, and 6 against it. Twenty-three Republicans voted for it, and twelve against it. So, it will be seen that the vote upon that question was not divided by party lines. Its most pronounced opponents were the prominent Republican leaders, Messrs. Blaine, Conkling and Edmunds.

THE Senate quarantine bill which failed in the House, and which even our out-and-out State rights contemporaries, the "Classics" favors, etc., etc.—Memphis Avalanche.

THE "State rights" principles of THE CLARION were not at all interfered with by the Senate bill, which contained this clause:

Provided, That nothing shall be so construed as to supersede any quarantine or sanitary regulations of any State.

M. P. RICHMOND, our worthy confrere of the Pascagoula Democratic-Star, as chairman of the executive committee of Jackson county, has called a meeting of said committee for the 7th of April with a view to preparation for the coming election.

THE good Parson Governor Brownlow was not bribed while Governor in 1868. He only permitted his better half to accept \$5,000 from certain interested parties, "to keep the old man in a good humor."

UNDER the new Constitution, the jury system of Georgia is somewhat changed, the standard of jury qualifications being raised. A committee of three citizens is appointed for each county, whose duty is to prepare a jury list. It works well.

SENATOR BECK has introduced a bill for the removal of all political disabilities under the fourteenth amendment; and Senator Harris has introduced his sanitary bill which passed the Senate near the close of the session and was defeated. Better luck next time.

CONNECTICUT, though it is the "land of steady habits," don't take stock in the bill providing for the establishment of the bell punch register system in the collection of the liquor tax. The Senate voted unanimously against it.

THE Missouri Legislature has instructed the Senators and requested the Representatives from that State to vote for the repeal of the federal coercive election laws.

MAYOR KERCHVAL has ordered that Nashville be at once put in the best sanitary condition.

THE STRUGGLE COMMENCED.

At last accounts parties in Congress had grappled upon the riders to the Army Appropriation bill forbidding the use of troops at the polls, as follows:

That Section 2,002 of the Revised Statutes be amended so as to read as follows: "No military or naval officer, or other person engaged in the